

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
IGNITE RESTAURANT GROUP, INC., <i>et al.</i> , <sup>1</sup>	)	Case No. 17-33550 (DRJ)
	)	
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered)
	)	

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**GUC TRUST'S SEVENTEENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 502(B) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND RULE 3007 OF  
THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE SEEKING TO DISALLOW  
AND EXPUNGE CERTAIN CLAIMS**

(DUPLICATE CLAIMS)

**THIS IS AN OBJECTION TO YOUR CLAIM. THE OBJECTING PARTY IS ASKING THE COURT TO DISALLOW THE CLAIM THAT YOU FILED IN THESE BANKRUPTCY CASES. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE OBJECTING PARTY TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. IF YOU DO NOT REACH AN AGREEMENT, YOU MUST FILE A RESPONSE TO THIS OBJECTION AND SEND A COPY OF YOUR RESPONSE TO THE OBJECTING PARTY WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE OBJECTION WAS SERVED ON YOU. YOUR RESPONSE MUST STATE WHY THE OBJECTION IS NOT VALID. IF YOU DO NOT FILE A RESPONSE WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE OBJECTION WAS SERVED ON YOU, YOUR CLAIM MAY BE DISALLOWED WITHOUT A HEARING.**

**A HEARING HAS BEEN SET ON THIS MATTER ON JULY 24, 2019 AT 2:00 P.M. (CENTRAL TIME) AND WILL BE HELD IN COURTROOM 400, 4TH FLOOR UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, 515 RUSK STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002.**

**THIS OBJECTION SEEKS TO DISALLOW AND EXPUNGE CERTAIN PROOFS OF CLAIM. CLAIMANTS RECEIVING THIS OBJECTION SHOULD LOCATE THEIR NAMES AND CLAIMS ON SCHEDULE 1 TO EXHIBIT A ATTACHED TO THIS OBJECTION.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number (if any), are: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc. (1359); Ignite Restaurant Group – RSC LLC (1791); Joe's Crab Shack, LLC (4189); Joe's Crab Shack – Redondo Beach, Inc. (5107); BHTT Entertainment, LLC (9818); Ignite Restaurants – New Jersey, LLC (5907); Joe's Crab Shack – Maryland, LLC (5297); Joe's Crab Shack – Anne Arundel MD, LLC (9318); Brick House Development, LLC (2944); JCS Monmouth Mall – NJ, LLC (3509); JCS Development LLC (4235). The Debtors' service address is: 10555 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77042.

Drivetrain, LLC, in its capacity as Trustee (the “GUC Trustee”) of the Ignite Restaurant Group GUC Trust (the “GUC Trust”) files this *Seventeenth Omnibus Objection to Claims Pursuant to Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Seeking to Disallow and Expunge Certain Claims (Duplicate Claims)* (this “Objection”). In support of this Objection, the GUC Trustee respectfully represents as follows:

### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this case and this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(B). Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409(a).

2. The predicates for the relief requested herein are section 502(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (“Bankruptcy Code”) and Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”).

### **Relief Requested**

3. The GUC Trustee respectfully requests entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “Order”) disallowing and expunging each claim identified with a “Claim No.” on **Schedule 1** to the Order (collectively, the “Duplicate Claims”) its entirety because each such Proof of Claim duplicates at least one other Proof of Claim filed against the Debtors’ estates by the same entity.

### **General Background**

4. On June 6, 2017 (the “Petition Date”), each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition with the Court under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The cases are being jointly administered pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).

5. The factual background relating to the Debtors' commencement of these cases is set forth in detail in the *Declaration of Jonathan Tibus in Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Motions* [Docket No. 4] filed on the Petition Date and incorporated herein by reference.

6. The Debtors have continued in possession of their properties as debtors-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

7. On August 29, 2017, the Debtors closed the sale of substantially all of their assets.

8. On September 18, 2017, the Debtors filed: (a) the Debtors' Joint Chapter 11 Plan as of September 18, 2017 [Docket No. 708] (the "Plan"); and (b) the Disclosure Statement with Respect to the Debtors' Joint Chapter 11 Plan as of September 18, 2017 [Docket No. 709] (the "Disclosure Statement").

9. On November 29, 2017, the Court confirmed the Plan and on December 1, 2017, entered the *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Confirming the Debtors' Joint Chapter 11 Plan as of September 18, 2017* (the "Confirmation Order") [Docket No. 967]. The Plan became effective on December 19, 2017 (the "Effective Date"). See Docket No. 1031.

10. Under the Plan, Drivetrain, LLC was appointed as the GUC Trustee of the Ignite Restaurant Group GUC Trust.

11. Pursuant to the Plan, the GUC Trustee is a party in interest with respect to all objections to Claims and all compromises of such objections. Plan, Section 8.04 ("... the GUC Trustee and other parties in interest to the extent provided by section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, on and after the Effective Date, shall have the right to File objections to Claims . . .").

### **The Claims Reconciliation Process**

12. On June 7, 2017, the Court established September 1, 2017 as the bar date for filing claims against the Debtors held by non-governmental entities and December 3, 2017 as the bar date for filing claims against the Debtors held by governmental entities [Docket No. 65].

13. On July 20, 2017, the Debtors filed their Schedules of Assets and Liabilities and Statements of Financial Affairs.

14. On November 13, 2017, the Court entered the *Order Approving Omnibus Claims Objection Procedures and Filing of Substantive Omnibus Claims Objections* [Docket No. 886], approving and establishing the proposed objection procedures (the “Objection Procedures”). This Objection is filed in accordance with the Objection Procedures.

15. The official claims register, prepared and maintained by the Debtors’ claims agent, reflects that over 1,450 proofs of claim were filed against the Debtors’ estates.

16. Since the Effective Date, the GUC Trustee and its advisors have been working diligently to review these proofs of claim, including any supporting documentation filed together with any proof of claim. To date, the GUC Trustee has objected to numerous claims through omnibus objections and also separately resolved certain claims through consensual stipulations. The GUC Trustee continues to review and reconcile claims for which it is responsible.

17. Attached hereto as **Exhibit B** is the *Declaration of Ivona Smith in Support of the Seventeenth Omnibus Objection to Claims Pursuant to Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Seeking to Disallow and Expunge Certain Claims (Duplicate Claims)* (the “Declaration”).

### **Basis for Relief**

18. Pursuant to section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, a filed proof of claim is deemed allowed, unless a party in interest objects. 11 U.S.C. § 502(a). A properly executed and filed proof of claim constitutes *prima facie* evidence of the validity and the amount of the claim under section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3001(f). To receive the benefit of *prima facie* validity, however, a proof of claim must assert factual allegations which would entitle the claimant to a recovery. *In re Heritage Org., LLC*, 04-35574 (BJH), 206 WL 6508477, at \*8 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Jan. 27, 2006). Additionally, a claimant's proof of claim is entitled to the presumption of *prima facie* validity under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f) only until an objecting party refutes at least one of the allegations that is essential to the claim's legal sufficiency. *In re Starnes*, 231 B.R. 903, 912 (N.D. Tex. 1998). Once an allegation is refuted, "the burden shifts to the claimant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence." *In re Congress, LLC*, 529 B.R. 213, 219 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2015); *see also Cavu/Rock Props. Project I, LLC v. Gold Star Constr., Inc. (In re Cavu/Rock Props. Project I, LLC)*, 516 B.R. 414, 422 (Bankr. W.D. Tex. 2014). "The ultimate burden of proof always lies with the claimant." *In re Armstrong*, 347 B.R. 581, 583 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2006).

19. Bankruptcy Rule 3007 requires that an objection to a proof of claim be made in writing, and that the claimant be provided with not less than thirty days' notice of the hearing to be held in respect of such objection. See Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007(a). Objections of up to one hundred claims may be joined in an omnibus objection if such objections are based on the grounds that the claims should be disallowed, in whole or in part, for any of eight enumerated reasons, including that the claims "duplicate other claims." *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007(d)(1).

20. Each of the Proofs of Claim listed in the column entitled “Claim to be Disallowed” in **Schedule 1** to Exhibit A attached hereto (i.e., each Duplicate Claim) is duplicative of at least one other Proof of Claim filed by the same claimant relating to the same subject matter. If the Duplicate Claims are not disallowed and expunged, the parties that filed these Proofs of Claims will receive an excessive recovery to the detriment of other stakeholders in these cases. *See* Declaration at ¶ 6.

21. Unless otherwise indicated, the relief requested herein will have no effect on the Proofs of Claim listed in the column entitled “Surviving Claim” in **Schedule 1** to Exhibit A. The GUC Trustee hereby reserves the right to object to the Proofs of Claim listed in the column entitled “Surviving Claim” in **Schedule 1** to Exhibit A on any and all applicable grounds.

22. Accordingly, the GUC Trustee respectfully requests that the Court disallow and expunge each Duplicate Claim in its entirety.

#### **Reservation of Rights**

23. In the event that any of the Duplicate Claims are not disallowed and expunged on the grounds asserted herein, the GUC Trustee hereby reserves his rights to object to such Proofs of Claim on any other grounds. Additionally, the GUC Trustee expressly reserves the right to amend, modify, or supplement the objections asserted herein and to file additional objections to the Proofs of Claim or any other claims that may be asserted against the Debtors’ estates.

24. Nothing contained herein or any actions taken pursuant to such relief is intended or should be construed as: (a) an admission as to the validity of any prepetition claim against a Debtor entity or such Debtor entity’s estate; (b) a waiver of any party’s right to dispute any prepetition claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any prepetition claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this

Objection or any order granting the relief requested by this Objection; (e) a request or authorization to assume any prepetition agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; or (f) a waiver of the GUC Trustee's rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law.

### **Separate Contested Matter**

25. To the extent that a response is filed regarding any Duplicate Claim and the GUC Trustee is unable to resolve any such response, each such Duplicate Claim, and the Objection as it pertains to such Duplicate Claim, will constitute a separate contested matter as contemplated by Bankruptcy Rule 9014. Further, the GUC Trustee requests that any order entered by the Court regarding an objection or other reply asserted in response to this Objection be deemed a separate order with respect to each proof of claim.

### **Notice**

26. Notice of this Objection has been given to: (a) all parties on the Master Service List; and (b) holders of the Duplicate Claims. The GUC Trustee respectfully submits that such notice is sufficient and proper under the circumstances and that no other or further notice is required.

### **Conclusion**

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, the GUC Trustee respectfully request that the Court: (a) sustain this Objection; (b) enter an order substantially in the form of the order attached hereto as **Exhibit A** sustaining this Objection and providing that the Duplicate Claims shall be disallowed and expunged; and (c) grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 6, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Michael D. Warner*

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*Counsel to the GUC Trustee*



**EXHIBIT A**

**Proposed Order**

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

<b>In re:</b>	)	<b>Chapter 11</b>
	)	
<b>IGNITE RESTAURANT GROUP, INC., et al.,<sup>1</sup></b>	)	<b>Case No. 17-33550 (DRJ)</b>
	)	
<b>Debtors.</b>	)	<b>(Jointly Administered)</b>
	)	

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**ORDER SUSTAINING  
SEVENTEENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 502(B) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND RULE 3007 OF  
THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE SEEKING TO DISALLOW  
AND EXPUNGE CERTAIN CLAIMS**

**(DUPLICATE CLAIMS)**

Upon the objection (the “Objection”)<sup>2</sup> of Drivetrain, LLC, in its capacity as Trustee (the “GUC Trustee”) of the Ignite Restaurant Group GUC Trust (the “GUC Trust”) seeking entry of an order (this “Order”) disallowing and expunging the Duplicate Claims identified on **Schedule 1** attached hereto, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Objection is sustained as set forth herein.
2. Pursuant to Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 3007, each Duplicate Claim identified on **Schedule 1** to this Order is disallowed and expunged in its entirety.

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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number (if any), are: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc. (1359); Ignite Restaurant Group – RSC LLC (1791); Joe’s Crab Shack, LLC (4189); Joe’s Crab Shack – Redondo Beach, Inc. (5107); BHTT Entertainment, LLC (9818); Ignite Restaurants – New Jersey, LLC (5907); Joe’s Crab Shack – Maryland, LLC (5297); Joe’s Crab Shack – Anne Arundel MD, LLC (9318); Brick House Development, LLC (2944); JCS Monmouth Mall – NJ, LLC (3509); JCS Development LLC (4235). The Debtors’ service address is: 10555 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77042.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Objection.

3. The Debtors' Claims Agent is authorized and directed to update the claims register maintained in these chapter 11 cases to reflect the relief granted in this Order.

4. Each claim and the objections by the GUC Trustee to each claim identified in **Schedule 1** constitute a separate contested matter as contemplated by Bankruptcy Rule 9014. This Order will be deemed a separate order with respect to each Duplicate Claim.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this Order, nothing in this Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the validity of any prepetition claim against a Debtor entity or such Debtor entity's estate; (b) a waiver of any party's right to dispute any prepetition claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any prepetition claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Objection or any order granting the relief requested by this Objection; (e) a request or authorization to assume any prepetition agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; or (f) a waiver of the GUC Trustee's rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law.

6. The terms and conditions of this Order will be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

7. The GUC Trustee, the Claims Agent, and the Clerk of the Court are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Objection.

8. This Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any dispute arising from or related to this Order.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2019  
Houston, Texas

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THE HONORABLE DAVID R. JONES  
CHIEF UNITED STATES  
BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

**SCHEDULE 1**

**Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc. et al.**  
**GUC Trust 17th Omnibus Objection to Claims**  
**Schedule 1 - Duplicate Claims**

Note: Claimants are listed alphabetically.

SEQ NO.	DUPLICATE CLAIM(S)			SURVIVING CLAIM(S)		
	NAME	CLAIM NO.	CLAIM AMOUNT	NAME	CLAIM NO.	CLAIM AMOUNT
1	20100 EASTEX LLC ATTN ESHAGH MAKEKAN 111 E JERICHO TURNPIKE MINEOLA NY 11501	1258	Unsecured: \$3,353,853.60	20100 EASTEX LLC 111 EAST JERICHO TURNPIKE SUITE 200 MINEOLA NY 11501	1252	Unsecured: \$3,353,853.60
	Date Filed: 10/02/17 Debtor: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc.			Date Filed: 09/28/17 Debtor: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc.		
2	EKLECCO NEWCO LLC C/O MENTER RUDIN & TRIVELPIECE PC ATTN KEVIN M NEWMAN 308 MALTBIE ST STE 200 SYRACUSE NY 13204-1439	630	Unsecured: \$3,591.15*	EKLECCO NEWCO LLC C/O MENTER RUDIN & TRIVELPIECE PC ATTN KEVIN M NEWMAN 308 MALTBIE ST TE 200 SYRACUSE NY 13204-1439	627	Unsecured: \$3,591.15*
	Date Filed: 08/30/17 Debtor: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc.			Date Filed: 08/30/17 Debtor: Joe's Crab Shack, LLC		
3	EKLECCO NEWCO LLC C/O MENTER RUDIN & TRIVELPIECE PC ATTN KEVIN M NEWMAN 308 MALTBIE ST STE 200 SYRACUSE NY 13204-1439	632	Unsecured: \$551,404.62*	EKLECCO NEWCO LLC C/O MENTER RUDIN & TRIVELPIECE PC ATTN KEVIN M NEWMAN 308 MALTIBE ST STE 200 SYRACUSE NY 13204-1439	629	Unsecured: \$551,404.62*
	Date Filed: 08/30/17 Debtor: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc.			Date Filed: 08/30/17 Debtor: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc.		

\*Denotes an unliquidated component.

**EXHIBIT B**

**Declaration of Ivona Smith**

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

<b>In re:</b>	)	<b>Chapter 11</b>
	)	
<b>IGNITE RESTAURANT GROUP, INC., et al.,<sup>1</sup></b>	)	<b>Case No. 17-33550 (DRJ)</b>
	)	
<b>Debtors.</b>	)	<b>(Jointly Administered)</b>
	)	

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**DECLARATION OF IVONA SMITH IN SUPPORT OF  
GUC TRUST'S SEVENTEENTH OMNIBUS OBJECTION TO CLAIMS  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 502(B) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND RULE 3007 OF  
THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE SEEKING TO DISALLOW  
AND EXPUNGE CERTAIN CLAIMS**

**(DUPLICATE CLAIMS)**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Ivona Smith, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the Authorized Representative at Drivetrain, LLC ("Drivetrain"). My business address is 410 Park Avenue, Suite 900, New York, NY 10022.
2. Contemporaneously with the filing of this Declaration, the GUC Trustee filed the *GUC Trust's Seventeenth Omnibus Objection to Claims Pursuant to Section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Rule 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Seeking to Disallow and Expunge Certain Claims (Duplicate Claims)* (the "Objection").<sup>2</sup>
3. The GUC Trustee has duly authorized me to make and submit this Declaration in support of the Objection.

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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number (if any), are: Ignite Restaurant Group, Inc. (1359); Ignite Restaurant Group – RSC LLC (1791); Joe's Crab Shack, LLC (4189); Joe's Crab Shack – Redondo Beach, Inc. (5107); BHTT Entertainment, LLC (9818); Ignite Restaurants – New Jersey, LLC (5907); Joe's Crab Shack – Maryland, LLC (5297); Joe's Crab Shack – Anne Arundel MD, LLC (9318); Brick House Development, LLC (2944); JCS Monmouth Mall – NJ, LLC (3509); JCS Development LLC (4235). The Debtors' service address is: 10555 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77042.

<sup>2</sup> All capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings given to them in the Objection.

4. The facts set forth in this Declaration are based upon my personal knowledge or upon records kept in the ordinary course of the Debtors' business provided to the GUC Trustee that were reviewed by me or other representatives of Drivetrain, LLC under my supervision and direction. If called and sworn as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the matters set forth herein.

5. I have coordinated and supervised the GUC Trustee's claims reconciliation process. Accordingly, I, or other representatives of Drivetrain, LLC under my supervision and direction, reviewed and analyzed the proofs of claim listed in **Schedule 1** to **Exhibit A** attached to the Objection.

#### **The Objection**

6. Each of the Proofs of Claim listed in the column entitled "Claim to be Disallowed" in **Schedule 1** to Exhibit A attached hereto (i.e., each Duplicate Claim) is duplicative of at least one other Proof of Claim filed by the same claimant relating to the same subject matter. If the Duplicate Claims are not disallowed and expunged, the parties that filed these Proofs of Claims will receive an excessive recovery to the detriment of other stakeholders in these cases.

7. For these reasons, the GUC Trustee respectfully requests that the Court disallow and expunge each Duplicate Claim in its entirety.



Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: June 6, 2019

/s/ Ivona Smith

Ivona Smith  
Drivetrain, LLC, in its capacity as GUC  
Trustee of the Ignite Restaurant Group GUC  
Trust